(c) The enforcement of the provisions of the Act and Rules rests primarily with the authorized officers of the State Governments/Union Territories. The above position was intimated to all State Governments / Union Territories with the request that the authorized officers might be advised accordingly so as to avoid unnecessary inconvenience to the cable operators.

Seismic Zone Map to guide structural engineers and architects

*66. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that country has been mapped into five different seismic zones depending on the seismic risk and certain standards including IS 1893 and IS 486 have been put in place to guide structural engineers, developers and the architects to determine the location of the city or an area corresponding to the seismic zone; and

(b) if so, whether the guidelines contained there in are being implemented, and if not so far, whether this will be done now so that damage to dwelling units on account of earthquakes could be contained to a large extent?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The guidelines regarding construction of safer houses were communicated to the State Governments in May, 1998. They have also been reminded to comply with these guidelines. This Ministry has subsequently sent telegrams to all States/UTs for early action on the Ministry's advice. The Minister for Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation is also holding a meeting of all State Ministers concerned with the subject so that the matter could be reviewed at the national level and necessary impetus given for effective follow up action.

In respect of Delhi, a public notice to amend the building bye-laws suitably to conform strictly to the BIS codes/guidelines has since been published.

Other States are expected to take suitable action. The Government would now pursue this matter with the State Governments more vigorously.

ST status to Gaddies and Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh

*67. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: